

**Washington State Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Meeting Minutes for September 22-23, 2005
Radisson Hotel, SeaTac, Washington**

September 22, 2005

Members Present:

Heather Hebdon, Chair; Ann Waybright, Vice-Chair; Trip Goodall, Executive Committee; Cheryl Fernandez; Anne Golden; Janet Gonzalez; Ronald Seifert; Kathleen Wenzl; Steve Nourse.

Excused Absences: Renee Buell; Susan Dineen; Monica Meyer

Note Taker: Julie Scheffer, OSPI

OSPI Staff: Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel; Bob Harmon; Doug Gill; David Anderson; Mary Louise Colwell.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Heather Hebdon.			
Legislative Update, Doug Gill <i>Safety Net Funding</i>	Doug went over several topics pertaining to the legislative updates specifically four issues: Budget: 1) additional allocation of state funding- on average of \$48 per student. This was an additional \$10.5 million dollars per biennium; 2) State money was put back into Safety Net, totaling on average about \$9.4 million. In addition to the \$9.4 there is an additional \$14.6 federal funding going in to Safety Net- making the total go from \$12,873.00 to approximately \$23 million dollars doubling Safety Net dollars. IDEiA defined a high-cost student- federal threshold for high-cost access about \$21,287 bringing the high-cost population to 2400 students. State threshold is \$14,902 per student. OSPI used the state money to “buy back” the old threshold which was roughly twice the APPE for state support-introduced related bulletin 094-05 Safety Net funding application process; 3) Eliminate line 25 on the overall demonstration of district need which was the plug number between prior year and current year- some districts did argue this was local			

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<i>Web-Based IEP Funding</i>	<p>information outlined in bulletin 094-05; 4) Legislature appropriated \$1.4 million of federal discretionary money to fund web-based IEPs. The legislative language makes it very clear this will be a one-time start up cost. The base is \$500 per district and \$10.10 per student. Doug presented bulletin 093-05 for information pertaining to this web-based IEP funding including the allocation tables. It was clarified that the "least" amount a district would receive would be \$510.10. Questions and answers were covered regarding program requirements of IDEiA and IEPs. Doug covered several districts numbers off allocation tables. Doug also briefly covered comments made to IDEiA 04 and how it affected the federal threshold and how the Legislature weighed each figure for districts and what OSPI did to buy back the old threshold for each student and how it fairly affected each district.</p>			
<i>Ombudsman Position</i>	<p>Doug covered the creation of the Ombudsman position created by the Legislature- the description of the position and responsibilities as set forth by the Legislature and how it affects timelines and reporting duties within Special Education Operations. Discussion among committee members was about details of the position and what the position entails and how it affects the Sped community.</p>			
<i>Pending Lawsuit and Motions</i>	<p>Doug went over the lawsuit and the motion made on August 19th, 2005 by Judge McPhee. All motions will be heard by Judge McPhee. Doug covered a brief timeline for the case and said the issues the committee brought up are covered in the court briefs.</p>			
HB2195 PowerPoint Presentation, David Anderson	<p>David Anderson began the PowerPoint presentation with presenting the draft Communication Plan and hard copy presentation made at the summer institutes about the work of the HB2195 task force. He stated this draft plan has not been agreed upon by the task force pending a couple of</p>	<p>Regional ESD training and the "WASL wagon" in October, the OSPI WERA conference and the OSPI January conference and the summer institutes will be used to disseminate the information on the taskforce and</p>		

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	<p>issues that need to be resolved. He gave a history of the task force.</p> <p>Doug clarified several points including parameters on children and alternative testing options.</p> <p>Heather questioned how many students are not actually taking any of the assessments tests. David went over issues covered at the taskforce meeting on September 13, 2005, including how the information will be put out including K20 conferences, meetings and the WAAS portfolio training in October. WEA planning and parent outreach will occur.</p>	HB2195.		
<p>SIG Website Presentation, Lea Saxton, PAVE</p>	<p>Lea Saxton presented the changes that are happening within one component of the state improvement grant for the website for PAVE. He also presented a brochure on the website and the information that he recommended be passed on to instructors and administrators. The site has been upgraded to be more “user friendly”. The site is geared toward users looking for information related to special education or literacy transition. There is a registration procedure currently in place that Lea will be removing. He is trying to get it “Bobby” approved so people with disabilities would be able to use a “reader”. Currently there is a search engine in place. Its layout represents the U.S. and you can search by state. Also, searching by ESD is possible. He is working on using a filter to be able to search by disability per state. He will be finding ways to promote the site, currently about 2000 hits have been made. An events manager is in place and the ability to look up events can be used. There are also links to related sites with explanation of the information provided on each site. The publications page is not up and running yet. Any books- including electronic books, publications, brochures or informational pieces related to special education, learning disabilities, transition, literacy or positive behavior support will be provided. This will</p>	<p>Lea asked that if anyone has training materials that could be used on the site, to notify him and he will get permission to upload it on the website.</p> <p>Lea asked that all attending go to the website and review. If there is something that could be suggested to improve the site, please email him at lsaxon@washingtonpave.com</p>		

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	<p>include the files and file types so they can be downloaded for personal use including print-friendly versions. The ability to download video of meetings, trainings and workshops is currently in place. There is an IEP training currently available on this site. It covers the basics of an IEP and the rules that should be implemented when creating an IEP and correctly following an IEP. A video presentation is in the works to cover the entire transition piece. Including information on transitioning through the child's school career on into adulthood. Should be at least two hours in length and should cost an estimate of \$10,000 to complete. This will be the "Transition 101" course for educators and administrators. Lea clarified that this is going in the direction of becoming a mandatory course for special education educators and administrators. Heather asked if the people doing the course would receive the credits and Lea verified that they would receive credits after paying Seattle University and completing the coursework. More courses with college credits are currently being considered for the website. A summit for all the partners and stakeholders is currently in the works with Seattle University to hopefully happen sometime in late November.</p>			
<p>OSPI Director's Report and Legislative Update, Doug Gill</p> <p><i>LEA Applications</i></p> <p><i>Safety Net Oversight Committee</i></p> <p><i>ALJs</i></p>	<p>Doug discussed:</p> <p>1) LEA applications, local funds applications for 2005-06 where districts annually apply to OSPI for special education funds. Reminder-there is a great deal of data and information here for the districts to review for their applications.</p> <p>2) The state Safety Net oversight committee meeting dates have been published on the website.</p> <p>3) Also posted on the website are the current ALJs in the regions and what regions they serve. Doug covered why more ALJs are in</p>	<p>Monthly updates can be found on OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us</p> <p>Review of applications is on a case by case basis so districts are encouraged to apply soon and get the applications to us in a timely manner. The due date for the district applications is December 30, 2005.</p> <p>By December 2nd the applications that the Safety Net committee will be reviewing and acting on need to be in by this</p>		

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<i>Medicaid Training</i>	<p>certain areas than others and they are not employees of OSPI.</p> <p>4) The fall Medicaid training schedule has been posted. RFPs have been done this year renewing contracts and grants. The RFP this year for third party billing was re-awarded to Leader Services on September 2005. Sound Options is the current mediation provider and the RFPs for this contract will be reviewed on September 29, 2005 and contract will be granted to the chosen agent on October 15, 2005. To review this information regarding RFPs and applicants, visit the website.</p>	<p>date. There is a difference between the deadline and receipt of the application and the date in which it is acted on. OSPI will not be taking applications before December due to the final fiscal year reconciliation for the district is not done until January when the F196 is reported and OSPI uses F196 data to determine "need" on worksheet A.</p>		
<i>Monitoring System and OSEP</i>	<p>5) Factors of the monitoring process were proposed to OSEP and the new monitoring system accepted by OSEP. There will be three sources of monitoring a) the risk ratio group; b) random select group; c) the request group.</p>	<p>Sped Op will be initiating a new focus monitoring process this year. Doug feels a lot of federal groups will be moving to this focus monitoring model- Bob Harmon seconded this. This will totally replace the CPR cycle- after its final year.</p>		
<i>New Employee</i>	<p>6) Addressed the new employee for Sped Op, Robin Christman and his credentials. 7)</p>			
<i>Steering Committee</i>	<p>Steering committee responsibilities and goals and also covered the other committees and a basic overview of the committee's functions.</p>	<p>Each OSPI contact from the committees will report to the SEAC committee. Notes from all the committee meetings are on the OSPI website for review.</p>		
<i>Federal Regulation Timeline</i>	<p>Doug anticipates the federal regulations will be done by December and there should not be a delay. A statement was posted about what has been put into effect as of July 1, 2005 including Interim Procedural Safeguards currently being translated. Doug covered unilaterally enrolled i.e. private and public students and services that are provided and mandatory funding for these students and what the definition is of "unilaterally enrolled".</p>	<p>All information pertaining to this IDEiA 2004 changes are posted on the website.</p>		
<i>Due Process Timeline</i>	<p>The timeline has changed for due process and the format for due process has also changed because of this timeline change.</p>			

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<p>Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel, Update</p> <p><i>Developmentally Appropriate WASL, DAW</i></p> <p><i>Federal Regulations</i></p> <p><i>Graduation Requirements</i></p> <p><i>WASL De-Linking</i></p>	<p>Mary Alice stated one of the biggest priorities is the training of the developmentally appropriate WASL, DAW. This needs to get out to the ESDs and trainings need to happen now and possibly we may need to go back and retrain based on the guidelines but initial training needs to immediately occur.</p> <p>She also covered how she felt about IDEiA 2004 and reauthorization. She stated that the Dept. of Ed has the information they need from this state regarding provisions, language and recommendations relating to the proposed regulations.</p> <p>Graduation requirements and HB2195 were discussed and the concerns about mathematics and ELL. There is an issue of fairness surrounding ELL and requirements. Also discussed was the de-linking of the WASL and graduation requirements and the negative impact this could have on students. There is tremendous support toward the math initiative. The mathematics program will be in effect by the beginning of the year Went over data for the WASL test and the increase in scores. This will be the data presented to the Legislature. There is a policy forum in November and Terry and Mary Alice will be attending. Mary Alice will be able to give an update at the SEAC meeting during the first of the year. Mary Alice went over Washington Language Proficiency Test with Trip Goodall and answered questions pertaining to ELL. In depth conversation regarding de-linking was discussed involving proposals made to the Legislature. The Ombudsman position was brought up as an issue to look at. Mary Alice thinks feedback and IDEiA to Terry from SEAC relating to DAW are of importance. Much discussion was made about professional development and expectations of training by ESDs.</p>	<p>A new agreement with Mexico is in effect and their courses will be available in Spanish and students can receive credits for taking WA courses online. This is currently only available in Yakima. The Yakima government is working closely with the state to safeguard student support.</p> <p>The assessment curriculum team will be state projects and will report to Mary Alice.</p> <p>Information on mathematics program will be provided at the January Conference. Heather asked Mary Alice for issues she would feel would be necessary to review and work on.</p>		

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<p>Mary Louise Colwell, Highly Qualified PowerPoint Presentation</p> <p><i>Personnel Committee and Reauthorization</i></p>	<p>Lou Colwell made the PowerPoint presentation on Highly Qualified. Definitions of pre-endorsement waivers and requirements were covered. Lou also covered what the Personnel Committee will be doing and covering for the reauthorization. She covered the definition of paraeducator and how it applies to special education. Comments that were made back to OSEP were covered including whether or not preschool teachers need to be considered and trained as highly-qualified, parent notification piece, and small school districts timeline for finding staff and getting them highly-qualified within special education. Quarter hours and semester hours were covered and what the requirements are involving a minor degree in special education.</p>	<p>Email complete PP presentation to Trip, Heather, Anne W., Kate, send email to others that are not here with presentation along with the minutes.</p>	<p>Julie Scheffer</p>	
<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>No public comments were made at this time.</p>			
<p>Goals and Issues for SEAC 2005-2006 Heather Hebdon, Chair</p> <p><i>Short-Term Goals</i></p> <p><i>Committee Issues</i></p>	<p>Goals and Issues for SEAC- short term and long term 2005- 06:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ombudsman Role but ongoing report to SEAC 2) DAW- Staff Training- SEAC input on how to... 3) SEAC Platform- Legislative issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAP\$ • Funds for consulting teachers • Mandatory B-3 • WASL De-Linking <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Foster Care- Foster Care Initiative 2) Higher Ed 3) Interventions (LAP; Early Intervention; Teacher Development; consulting teachers, B-3; Early Interventions; Links between early interventions & referral to Sped and long term outcomes; funding issues w/pre-referrals) 	<p>Get emailed copy of June 1 report to Sup. Bergeson to committee members; find out from absent members who are serving on IDEIA 2004 rules committees.</p>	<p>Julie Scheffer</p>	

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<p><i>Additional SEAC 2005-06 Issues</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Foster Care- Special Ed students 2) WASL De-Linking 3) Ombudsman Role 4) DAW-Staff Training 5) SEAC Platform for Legislative visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAP • Consulting teacher funds • B-3 mandatory 6) Drug/Alcohol Issues & Special Ed students 7) EBD 8) IDEIA Rules & Regulations 9) LAP 10) Consulting Special Ed Teachers 11) Teacher Development 12) Funding Issues w/Pre-Referral 13) Early Intervention 14) Links between early intervention and referral 15) Birth = 3 + School District Involvement 16) Higher Education 	<p>Heather asked which of the committee members are involved in the IDEiA 2004 committees as explained by Doug earlier.</p>		

September 23, 2005

Members Present:

Heather Hebdon, Chair; Ann Waybright, Vice-Chair; Trip Goodall, Executive Committee; Cheryl Fernandez; Anne Golden; Janet Gonzalez; Ronald Seifert; Kathleen Wenzl; Steve Nourse.

Excused Absences: Renee Buell; Susan Dineen; Monica Meyer

Note Taker: Julie Scheffer, OSPI

OSPI Staff: Doug Gill

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 8:30am by Heather Hebdon.			
IDEiA Update, Doug Gill	<p>Comments about IDEiA were reviewed. Each category of letter to Dr. Justice was discussed. A copy of the comments can be located at:</p> <p>http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/pubdocs/wac/federal/IDEA_04_rule_comments.pdf</p> <p>A question was raised related to defining a learning disability by a school psych and determining the eligibility with regards to the severe discrepancy table. Doug stated since the severe discrepancy model is not "required" to be used anymore how would we determine eligibility for children. He defined that even though you are not "required" to use it, you are also not "prohibited" to use it. Heather stated the districts are going to have to take a position on this matter.</p> <p>Kathleen Wenzl asked if the comments would be responded to. Doug replied Sped Op comments will not be directly responded to but they will be printed in the back of the federal register in the final draft. It will also show whether they were used in the final draft and this will be used as part of the basis in developing the state regulations.</p> <p>Doug gave explanation on which situations call for procedural safeguards to be handed out and which situations that are not covered that need to be including disciplinary actions.</p> <p>Ron Seifert stated he feels the "loopholes" the attorneys, parents attorneys and district attorneys, look for in this language does nothing but hurt the children as these cases sit in abeyance and years pass and there is no outcome for the children.</p>	<p>There was a discussion between Heather, Doug, Trip and Ron whether or not graduation requirements and "walking" with graduating class is an issue.</p>		

<p>Review and approval of Minutes, Heather Hebdon, Chair</p>	<p>The meeting minutes from May 23-24, 2005 were reviewed. (1) A change on page three was requested to remove the word “can’t” in the sentence “Area most concerning – Special ed students <i>can’t</i> reach the same successes as regular education students.” Suggestion to change this word to “haven’t” was accepted. Trip Goodall wanted clarification of this change to make sure the same meaning was achieved and not just a generalized meaning.</p> <p>(2) Ron Seifert’s name needs to be consistent throughout the document and needs to be changed to reflect that.</p> <p>Meeting minutes motioned for approval by Kathleen Wenzl and seconded by Ron Seifert.</p> <p>SEAC members that have resigned include Stephen Ice and Peter Ansingh. Peter represented superintendents and that position needs to be filled. Stephen Ice represented other agencies that serve or support persons that have disabilities and this position also needs to be filled. The committee does not know at this time if David Thorngate will continue as a member. The position of representing the juvenile justice system is still open. These are areas that SEAC needs to insure participation in to be in compliance. An application process has been favored above an appointing by agencies process and Heather recommends discussing this to present to Terry. Steve Nourse asked for definition on what was included in representing the juvenile justice system. Heather gave history on the individual that was being considered for this position. Heather stated it doesn’t have to be someone that is working directly in the juvenile justice system; it can be someone providing support services for it. Steve Nourse asked if SEAC can solicit persons to apply and Heather agreed that they can. Heather wants to be in compliance at the beginning of this new year and wants to have a motion to write Terry a letter regarding this process. Trip asked if being in compliance was a direct issue of SEAC. Heather answered Trip’s question and conveyed it is Terry’s responsibility to ensure we are in compliance and it is our responsibility as an advisory committee to advise her if we are not in compliance.</p> <p>Ron Seifert motioned that SEAC notify Terry SEAC is out of compliance and Cheryl Fernandez seconded that motion. Motion approved and carried.</p>	<p>Revisions will be made and the minutes will be posted to the OSP website. Minutes were approved with revisions.</p> <p>A recommendation needs to be made to Terry to seek applications to fill these spots.</p> <p>Trip Goodall asked that the SEAC brochure be included to Terry and ask that she include this in the application when asking for members to apply.</p>		
<p>PESB Update and Ombudsman Position Update, Douglas Gill</p> <p><i>PESB Update</i></p>	<p>Jennifer Wallace was unable to attend this meeting to cover PESB update. Doug reviewed bulleted items from handout related to teachers and their continuing education and the work the Board does with educator preparation including career ladder components, certification, and priorities of the Board. Much discussion was had among committee members including Steve Nourse, Trip Goodall and Doug about state requirements and the advancement of these requirements for teachers in special education including history on certification, college credits and degrees and demographics.</p>	<p>A handout was given with names and information of who represents the Board with Board’s Mission and actions.</p>		

<p><i>Ombudsman position</i></p>	<p>Trip Goodall brought up that the SEAC committee is being asked to be more proactive than in the past in talking with Legislators about the positions of the committee on issues regarding children with special needs. Trip stated WSP has never been in contact with him in regards to SEAC. Also WEA hasn't been in contact with SEAC about the committee's functions. Heather clarified that when SEAC was a larger group, those groups Trip mentioned did have representation on the SEAC committee. Trip would like the positive impact of SEAC to be understood among these groups. Including possibly creative a position to fill that would act as an advocate to the Legislature to communicate about SEAC and the mission of the committee.</p> <p>Doug made a suggestion for the November 30th meeting that the thoughts on the positions/platforms of SEAC be decided at that meeting since the regulations should be back on or before December 10th and therefore SEAC would be prepared for January. Additionally, speakers on the platform should be chosen by this time.</p> <p>Heather agreed and also thought that the committee could discuss and decide how to get the information out to the Legislators.</p> <p>Anne Golden suggested finding out who the Legislators were that created the Ombudsman position and why they did this and present to them the issues that SEAC has discovered with this new position.</p> <p>The Ombudsman position and the effect it will have on the special education community was discussed. Job duties and requirements were clarified as well as position timelines and credentials. It was discussed that a SEAC member perhaps be part of the interview process when it occurs. Some questions presented by committee members were:</p> <p>Draft questions for ombudsman position interview:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Scenario child's treatment in sped/parent disagreements- "how would you handle this" not following IEP, not receiving hrs, not getting notice of changes 2) How do you filter through info being shared to find the key point(s) that need response 3) How do you handle conflict? What strategies do you use to de-escalate give an example w/a non English speaker? 4) Define in your words the role of ombudsman in relation to the position of sped 5) What skills/strategies would you use 6) After an intensive project what are 3 words people would use to describe your work? i.e. organized, effective, etc... 7) If you were given this position what would you do first? 	<p>Trip suggested extending an invitation from SEAC to these groups so that they may understand what SEAC is all about.</p> <p>With regards to the compliance issue Heather stressed that persons interested in a SEAC committee position did not have to be part of any specific organization.</p> <p>Steve Nourse suggested possibly using Highline CC as a meeting spot.</p>		
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November Meeting and Future Meeting Dates	November 30, 2005 – One day meeting, to be held in SeaTac area. 1) December 1 or 2 – one day meeting, to be held in Western Washington. 2) January, 2006 – two day meeting, to be held in Olympia possibly the 25-26 ending at 1:30pm. 3) Week of March 13-14, 2006 – two day meeting, to be held in Spokane area. 4) May 8-9 – two day meeting, to be held in Eastern Washington i.e. Yakima, Leavenworth.			
Announcements	There are four positions available to be filled.			
Adjourn	Heather thanked the committee for all their hard work and stated it has been a growing experience from last year to this year. She dismissed the meeting at 1:05pm.			